

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OMB-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /101 W
----- 034903

R 110915 Z MAY 73

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9564

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL KARACHI

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: REIMPOSITION OF SECTION 144 IN LAHORE

REF: LAHORE 0399

1. ON 5 MAY DISTRICT MAGISTRATE OF LAHORE REIMPOSED SECTION 144 THROUGHOUT LAHORE DISTRICT, PROHIBITING PUBLIC MEETINGS, PROCESSIONS, AND ASSEMBLIES OF MORE THAN FIVE PERSONS (WITHOUT PRIOR SANCTION OF DISTRICT AUTHORITIES) AS WELL AS CARRYING OF WEAPONS AND ARMS, BAN TO BE EFFECTIVE FOR ONE MONTH. DISTRICT MAGISTRATE TOOK ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PUNJAB PROVINCIAL CABINET DECISION, RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER SITUATION, THAT SECTION 144 SHOULD BE IMPOSED IN ANY PUNJAB DISTRICT WHERE THERE MIGHT BE SITUATION THREATENING PEACE. CONGEN UNDERSTANDS SECTION 144 ALREADY IMPOSED IN BAHAWALPUR DISTRICT, BUT NOT ELSEWHERE AS YET.

2. IN STATEMENT TO PRESS, GOVERNOR KHAR SAID HE WOULD NOT ALLOW ANY INDIVIDUAL GROUP OR PARTY TO CAPITALIZE ON " SECTARIAN" ISSUES OR ON ANY OTHER ISSUE WHICH MIGHT CREATE LAW AND ORDER PROBLEM. GOVERNOR ADDED THAT CURRENT IMPOSITION OF SECTION 144 WAS NOT RPT NOT DIRECTED AGAINST
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ALLOWABLE POLITICAL ACTIVITY NOT CONNECTED WITH ATTEMPTS TO
FOMENT " SECTARIAN" TROUBLE.

3. COMMENT: LAHORE HAD RELATIVELY SHORT RESPITE FROM SECTION
144 (LAHORE 0399). APPEARS CABINET TOOK CURRENT STEP OF
RE- IMPOSING SECTION 144 BECAUSE OF UPSURGE OF ANTI- AHMADIYA
STATEMENTS AND ACTIVITY BY ORTHODOX AND CONSERVATIVE MUSLIM
ULEMA LED POLITICO- RELIGIOUS PARTY BY JAMIAT ULEMA AND NEAR
DEFUNCT POLITICAL GROUPING, MAJLIS- Z- AHRAR. AS WE UNDERSTAND
IT, DEBATE ON NEW CONSTITUTION ORTHODOX ULEMAS TRIED TO GET
AHMADIYAS CATEGORIZED AS MINORITY GROUPS OUTSIDE MUSLIM
SOCIETY. THIS FAILED BUT AFTER AZAD KASHMIR ASSEMBLY RECENTLY
APPROVED RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING AZADHMAHSHMIR DECLARE AHMADIYAS
TO BE MINORITY, ORTHODOX ULEMA AND MUSLIM PARTIES BEGAN
PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN AGAINST AHMADIYAS WHICH RAISED TENSIONS
LOCALLY. MAJLIS- E- AHRAR ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO HOLD PUBLIC
MEETING OUTSIDE LAHORE' S DELHI GATE TO PAY TRIBUTE TO ACTION
OF AZAD KASGVIR ASSEMBLY, TO FEATURE NOTED OPPOSITION FIGURES
SUCH AS AGHA SHORISH KASHMIRI AND NAWABZADA NASRULLAH KHAN,
AS WELL AS SOME PROMINENT LEADERS OF JAMIAT ULEMA, JAMIAT ULSUA
PAKISTAN AND JAMIAT ULEMA ISLAM, AND SIMILAR MEETINGS WERE
SCHEDULED FOR OTHER PARTS OF THE PUNJAB. AT THIS POINT, SCHEDULED
MEETING WAS PROHIBITED AND SECTION 144 REIMPOSED. OPPOSITION
HERE, INCLUDING UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT AND OTHER RIGHT WING
GROUPS, HAVE PROTESTED STRONGLY ON ASSUMPTION PUNJAB
GOVT WILL USE SECTARIAN FRACAS AS EXCUSE TO STOP
ALL OPPOSITION PUBLIC MEETINGS. JUDGING BY GOVERNOR KHAR' S
PAST TACTICS, WE SUSPECT OPPOSITION CONCERNS ARE WELL FOUNDED.
KING

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